



# Hon. Doris O. Matsui

## Member of Congress

*Doris O. Matsui*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Tuesday, February 13, 2007**

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### **Matsui Floor Statement Opposing the Iraq War, & the Proposed Escalation**

*"As a result of this Administration's failure to meet the most basic requirements of responsible leadership, it has abdicated any claim to deference from this chamber on this war ... and it has certainly relinquished the moral authority to send additional men and women into this catastrophe."*

**Washington, DC** – As the House began 36-hours of debate on the Iraq War, Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-05) spoke on the floor in opposition to this war and in opposition to the President's proposal to increase troop levels. The debate is over H. Con. Res. 63, a concurrent resolution expressing support for American troops and disapproval of the President's plan to increase the number of troops in Iraq. In her remarks she also focused on her support of several responsible proposals to bring this war to a close, as well as the strain placed on the men and women of our Armed Forces.

Debate on the resolution began today, Tuesday, February 13, 2007 and each member who wishes to speak will be given five minutes on the Floor. Passage of the resolution is expected on Friday, February 16, 2007. [Click here to view the full text of the resolution.](#)

Below is the text of her floor statement as delivered:

"Mr. Speaker, this debate is long overdue. There is no issue more serious ... or more urgent. The American People said loud and clear in the last election that they consider bringing this war to a close to be the singular imperative of their leaders.

"Yet rather than beginning to bring troops home, the President has proposed escalating this conflict.

"The American people deserve to know where their elective representatives stand on this, the most critical issue at this moment of our history.

"This week, the People will get their answer.

"Mr. Speaker, here's where I stand. I opposed this war from the beginning, and I support several responsible proposals to bring this war to a close.

"I believe the President's proposed escalation would be a tragic mistake. It will most likely result in an increase in violence while only postponing the hard political choices the Iraqi people must make.

"It will also increase the strain on a military that is already stretched to the breaking point.

“Mr. Speaker, it is critically important to make clear that Iraq has spiraled into civil war because of the failure of this country’s political leadership ... NOT our troops.

“Our brave men and women in uniform have done everything that has been asked of them. The real tragedy is how ill-served they have been by their political leadership.

“I have heard firsthand from many families in Sacramento the impact this has had on their lives.

“Linda, a concerned mother, told me about her son, Nicholas, who serves as an Army sergeant in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne in Germany. Shortly, he will be returning to Iraq for his THIRD tour.

“And there are some 30 soldiers in the Sacramento area who have died in this war. I’ve met several times with members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families. Every member knows what I am talking about. We’ve all done it. We all know the pain.

“In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, this Administration has failed to meet the most basic requirements of responsible leadership. As a result, it has abdicated any claim to deference from this chamber on this war ... and it has certainly relinquished the moral authority to send additional men and women into this catastrophe.

“Undoubtedly, this chamber will need to take more forceful action if we are to bring this war to a conclusion. But today is an important first step.

“I urge my colleagues to support this resolution ... and to oppose this gravely mistaken proposal to escalate the war.”

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